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Lidove Noviny.

JOSEF JONAS BECOMES MINISTER OF LIGHT INDUSTRY

On 20 December 1950, President Gottwald names Josef Jonas to run the newly formed Ministry of Light Industry.

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Jonas was born the son of a small farmer in Miletin near Humpolec on 17 September 1913. His father was a member of the Communist Party from its founding, and even as a child Jonas was active in the youth movement of the party. He held many party offices, mostly on the kraj level. In 1928, he joined the Komsomol, in which he also held many offices. He was persecuted for his political activity and left high school.

At the beginning of World War II, Jonas was arrested for his political activity. He was imprisoned in various concentration camps, including Dachau and Buchenwald. Even then he did not cease his political activity, but continued to operate illegally with such party functionaries as Franck and Hrsel.

After returning from the concentration camp in May 1945, he held various jobs in the secretariat of the Central Committee. In 1947, he was named manager of Rude Pravo. When this publishing house was merged with the Svoboda house, he was named enterprise manager. He became Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade in November 1949.

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